

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-73 are cancelled.

74. (Allowed) A method of delivering a nucleic acid into an organism comprising steps of:
porating a biological membrane at a selected area of the organism to form at least one micropore 1-1000 μm in diameter in said biological membrane comprising the step of ablating the biological membrane by placing a heat conducting element in substantial physical contact with the selected area to deliver sufficient energy by conduction to said selected area of said biological membrane such that the temperature of tissue-bound water and other vaporizable substances in said selected area is elevated above the vaporization point of said water and other vaporizable substances, thereby removing the biological membrane in said selected area; and
contacting the selected area with a nucleic acid under conditions whereby the nucleic acid is taken up into the organism through the at least one micropore formed in the biological membrane.

75. (Allowed) The method of claim 74, wherein the nucleic acid is DNA.

76. (Allowed) The method of claim 74, wherein the nucleic acid is RNA.

77. (Allowed) A method for delivering a permeant into an organism comprising steps of:
porating a biological membrane at a selected area of the organism to form at least one micropore 1-1000 μm in diameter in said biological membrane, comprising the step of ablating the biological membrane by placing a heat conducting element in substantial physical contact with the selected area to deliver sufficient energy by conduction to said selected area of said biological membrane such that the temperature of tissue-bound water and other vaporizable substances in said selected area is elevated above the vaporization point of said water and other vaporizable substances, thereby removing the biological membrane in said selected area; and
contacting the selected area with a permeant, wherein the permeant is selected from the group consisting of insulin, interferon and heparin, under conditions whereby the permeant is

taken up into the organism through the at least one micropore formed in the biological membrane.

78. (Allowed) A method of delivering a permeant associated with a carrier into an organism comprising steps of:

porating a biological membrane at a selected area of the organism to form at least one micropore 1-1000 μm in diameter in said biological membrane comprising the step of ablating the biological membrane by placing a heat conducting element in substantial physical contact with the selected area to deliver sufficient energy by conduction to said selected area of said biological membrane such that the temperature of tissue-bound water and other vaporizable substances in said selected area is elevated above the vaporization point of said water and other vaporizable substances thereby removing the biological membrane in said selected area; and

contacting the selected area with the carrier under conditions whereby the permeant associated with the carrier is taken up into the organism through the at least one micropore formed in the biological membrane; wherein the carrier comprises liposomes, lipid complexes, microparticles, or polyethylene glycol compounds; and optionally,

wherein the carrier is formulated to have a charge.

79. (Allowed) The method of claim 78, wherein the carrier comprises liposomes.

80. (Allowed) The method of claim 78, wherein the carrier comprises lipid complexes.

Claim 81 is cancelled.

82. (Allowed) The method of claim 78, wherein the carrier comprises microparticles.

83. (Allowed) The method of claim 78, wherein the carrier comprises polyethylene glycol compounds.

Claims 84-106 are cancelled.